



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Board of Health Minutes 12/10/2008

Board of Health Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 10, 2008
Ground Floor Conference Room
Senior Center, 27 Maple Street
5:15pm

Board Members in Attendance: Dr. Carole Allen, Mr. Gregory Leonardos and Dr. Michael Fitzpatrick (Chair)

Staff in Attendance: Christine Sharkey, Director of Health and Human Services, Natasha Thorne, Health Inspector, Joseph Carabello, Health Inspector, Mary Ann Jacobs, Secretary, Colleen Leger, Youth Health and Safety Coalition Director

- Accept October 22, 2008 meeting minutes

The meeting minutes of October 22, 2008 were accepted as written.

- INTRODUCTION: Juliana Rice, Town Counsel

Christine Sharkey introduced Arlington's new Town Counsel, Juliana Rice. Juliana has an extensive law background and comes to Arlington from the Administration Law Division in the Bureau of the Massachusetts Attorney General. Attorney Rice was chosen from several candidates to replace John Maher who retired earlier in the year.

- HEARING: George F. Williams, Funeral Director-Berglund Williams Funeral Home

Present at the hearing: George F. Williams, his attorney John F. Mee; Chris Carroll and John Bresnahan, Investigators from the MA Division of Professional Licensure; Elena Peterson, daughter of funeral home client.

George F. Williams was brought before the board on the charge of an alleged forgery of a client's death certificate to withdraw funds from a bank. The 85-year old client is now living in Swampscott according to her daughter, Elena Peterson. The amount fraudulently withdrawn has since been returned to the daughter. The two state investigators said they plan to acquire the list of all Berglund-Williams clients who have prepaid for their funerals, which Atty. Mee amounted to roughly \$500,000. The Board unanimously voted to suspend George F. Williams' license immediately.

Attached to these minutes are various documents relating to the case.

- DISCUSSION: Tobacco Retailer Training Violations-2009 Permitting

Natasha has conducted two trainings required for a 2009 permit. All vendors were notified by mail and reminded by telephone of the trainings. Walgreen's, CVS and Mass Convenience were not represented, and their permits will be suspended as of January 1. A special training will be conducted on January 2 which they will be required to attend at a cost of \$50 to renew their permit.

Tobacco update: Natasha reported a tobacco compliance check was conducted on Fri 12/10/08 using two minor females (ages 15 and 17) and no sales of cigarettes were made.

- PRESENTATION: Arlington Youth Health and Safety Coalition

Presentation-Colleen Leger

Colleen presented an overall outlook of the coalition's goals and the processes being put into place in order to reach these goals. The importance of participation by students, parents, school, police and the town are a vital part of the program's success. There will be another public forum taking place on March 19, 2009.

- UPDATE: Regionalization of Public Health Services

Christine and Dr. Fitzpatrick and Greg Leonardos met with Belmont and Lexington officials regarding regionalization between Belmont, Lexington and Arlington. It has great potential for increasing capacity and the ability to help more people. It will, however, take a few years of studying and planning before establishing a regional health district.

A farewell reception was held for Dr. Carole Allen immediately following the meeting. This was Dr. Allen's last meeting and she is stepping down from the Board after 15 years of devoted service. We will miss her knowledge and dedication to the board and the town and wish her all the best in all of her endeavors, which are many. Thank you, Dr. Allen.